

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-02 RSC-01 /016 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2004

USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS

SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTRIC ESPANOLA VS CORPORACION VALDESIA

REF : STATE 238641

1. EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED CASE AT LENGTH ON NOVEMBER 4 WITH FABREGAT; BOTH AGREED THAT THE MAIN DECISION MAKER INVOLVED WAS PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND THAT THE BEST APPROACH TO HIM WOULD BE VIA ANTONIO VALDEZ, SPANISH MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, WHO WOULD BE VISITING THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC NOVEMBER 7 TO 9 FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE CIVIL WORKS PORTION OF THE VALDESIA DAM. EMBOFF ALSO SUGGESTED CONTACT WITH CORPORACION EDIL, THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF G.E., MANAGED BY A US CITIZEN WHO HAS HAD NOTABLE SUCCESS IN COLLECTING DEBTS FROM AN OFTEN RELUCTANT DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT.

2. FABREGAT LATER REPORTED THAT HE DISCUSSED THE ISSUE DIRECTLY WITH THE PRESIDENT AT THE VALDESIA SITE ON THE UTH, AFTER AN INTRODUCTION BY THE SPANISH MINISTER. ACCORDING TO FABREGAT, THE PRESIDENT PROMISED TO PAY THE DEBT, BUT ONLY IF G.E. WOULD FINISH ITS PART OF THE DAM BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. ALTHOUGH FABREGAT FIRST INSISTED THAT FEBRUARY OR MARCH, 1975 WOULD BE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE COMPLETION DATE, HE FINALLY AGREED TO PUT MORE MEN ON THE JOB AND TRY TO MEET THE DECEMBER 31 DEADLINE.

3. FABREGAT SAID HE ALSO RECEIVED ASSURANCES OF ASSISTANCE VIS-A-VIS LOWER LEVELS OF THE GODR FROM CORPORACION EDIL.

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4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FABREGAT EXPRESSED CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM THAT THE ISSUE HAD BEEN RESOLVED, OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT COMPLETION OF THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMPONENT OF THE VALDESIA DAM BY THE END OF THE YEAR REMAINS PROBLEMATICAL.
HURWITCH

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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